

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE LEVELS AND COMPETENCIES

NFPA 472 - Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents

NFPA 473 - Standard for Competence for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents

Competencies for Awareness Level Personnel

Awareness level personnel shall be persons who, in the course of their normal duties, could encounter an emergency involving hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and who are expected to recognize the presence of the hazardous materials/WMD, protect themselves, call for trained personnel and secure the area.

Awareness level personnel shall be trained to meet the following competencies:

1. Detect the presence of hazardous materials/WMD
2. Survey hazardous materials/WMD incidents from a safe distance
3. Collect hazard information using the DOT *Emergency Response Guidebook*
4. Initiate protective actions consistent with the emergency response plan, standard operating procedures or guidelines and the DOT *Emergency Response Guidebook*
5. Initiate proper notification consistent with the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines

Competencies for Operations Level Responders

The operations level responder shall be that person who responds to hazardous materials/WMD incidents for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, the environment or property from the effects of the release.

Operations level responders shall be trained to meet all competencies at the awareness level and meet the following additional competencies:

1. Survey hazardous materials/WMD incidents
2. Collect hazard and response information
3. Predict likely behavior of materials and its containers
4. Estimate potential harm within the endangered area
5. Describe response objectives
6. Identify the options for each response objective
7. Determine suitability of personal protective equipment
8. Identify decontamination issues and options
9. Select decontamination procedures
10. Perform control, containment or confinement operations
11. Establish and enforce scene control procedures, including control zones, emergency decontamination and communications
12. Preserve evidence as listed in the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines
13. Initiate Incident Command System specified in the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines
14. Describe considerations for use of personal protective equipment
15. Evaluate the status of the actions taken in accomplishing the response objectives
16. Communicate the status of the planned response through the normal chain of command

Competencies for Hazardous Materials Technicians

The hazardous materials technician shall be that person who responds to hazardous materials/WMD incidents using a risk-based response process, by which they analyze a problem involving hazardous materials/WMD, selects applicable decontamination procedures and controls a release using specialized protective clothing and control equipment.

The Hazardous materials technician shall be trained to meet all the competencies at the awareness level and core competencies at the operations level and meet the following additional competencies:

1. Survey hazardous materials/WMD incidents
2. Collect and interpret hazardous response information
3. Describe the condition of the container involved in the incident
4. Predict likely behavior of materials and their containers where multiple materials are involved
5. Estimate the likely size of an endangered area
6. Identify response objectives
7. Identify the potential response options
8. Select personal protective equipment
9. Select decontamination procedures
10. Develop a plan of action including a site safety and control plan consistent with the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines within the capability of available personnel
11. Perform Incident Command duties consistent with the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines
12. Perform control functions identified in the Incident Action Plan (IAP)
13. Perform decontamination operations identified in the Incident Action Plan (IAP)
14. Evaluate the effectiveness of control functions
15. Evaluate the effectiveness of the decontamination process
16. Assist in the debriefing
17. Assist in the incident critique
18. Report and document the incident

Competencies for Incident Commanders

The incident commander (IC) shall be the person responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources.

The incident commander shall be trained to meet all the competencies at the awareness level and core competencies at the operations level and meet the following additional competencies:

1. Analyze, collect and interpret incident hazard and response information
2. Estimate potential outcomes, given the surrounding conditions and the predicted behavior of the container and its contents
3. Identify and describe the steps for determining the response objectives
4. Identify the potential response options by response objectives
5. Approve the level of personal protective equipment
6. Develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP) consistent with emergency operations plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines within the capabilities of available personnel
7. Implement the Incident Command System consistent with the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines
8. Direct all resources, both governmental and private
9. Provide a focal point for information transfer to the media and elected officials
10. Evaluate progress of the Incident Action Plan (IAP) to determine whether the efforts are accomplishing the response objectives

11. Transfer command and control consistent with the emergency response plan and standard operating procedures or guidelines
12. Conduct briefing of the incident
13. Conduct a critique of the incident
14. Report and document the hazardous materials/WMD incident